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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for ordering food from a restaurant, the method comprising:

providing a hot spot location for the restaurant, wherein the hot spot provides for wireless communications with a wireless device for a user;

responsive to detecting the wireless device within the hot spot location, determining whether user preferences are stored within the device;

responsive to user preferences being present, generating a menu based on the user preferences; and

sending the menu to the wireless device, wherein an order is placed through the wireless device using the menu.

2.   The method of claim 1 further comprising: charging the user for the order.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the menu also is based on availability of items at the restaurant.

4.   The method of claim 1 further comprising: responsive to placement of the order, sending an order identification to the wireless device.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the hot spot location is located within the restaurant.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the hot spot location is located outside of the restaurant in a drive-through area of the restaurant or a location away from a premises of the restaurant.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

responsive to an absence of user preferences, entering into a dialog with the user to place the order.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless device is one of a personal digital assistant, a notebook computer, or a digital wireless phone.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the user preferences include charge information, including at least one of credit card information and frequent diner club information.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising:

sending receipt information to the wireless device for use in at least one of a personal expense program and a financial management program.

11. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

sending order information for use by a food analysis program on the wireless device.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the user preferences include at least one of dietary needs, language of choice for the menu, and monetary preferences.

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13. A data processing system for ordering food from a restaurant, the data processing system comprising:

providing means for providing a hot spot location for the restaurant, wherein the hot spot provides for wireless communications with a wireless device for a user;

determining means, responsive to detecting the wireless device within the hot spot location, for determining whether user preferences are stored within the device;

generating means, responsive to user preferences being present, for generating a menu based on the user preferences; and

sending means for sending the menu to the wireless device, wherein an order is placed through the wireless device using the menu.

14. The data processing system of claim 13 further comprising:

charging means for charging the user for the order.

15. The data processing system of claim 13 further comprising:

sending means, responsive to placement of the order, for sending an order identification to the wireless device.

16. The data processing system of claim 13, wherein the hot spot location is located within the restaurant.

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17. The data processing system of claim 13, wherein the hot spot location is located outside of the restaurant in a drive-through area of the restaurant or at a location away from a premises of the restaurant.

18. The data processing system of claim 13, further comprising:

entering means, responsive to an absence of user preferences, for entering into a dialog with the user to place the order.

19. The data processing system of claim 13, wherein the wireless device is one of a personal digital assistant, a notebook computer, or a digital wireless phone.

20. A data processing system comprising:

a bus system;

a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions; and

· a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to provide a hot spot location for the restaurant, wherein the hot spot location provides for wireless communications with a wireless device for a user; to determine whether user preferences are stored within the device in response to detecting the wireless device within the hot spot location; to generate a menu based on the user preferences in response to user preferences being present; and to send the menu to the

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wireless device, wherein an order is placed through the wireless device using the menu.

21. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for ordering food from a restaurant, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for providing a hot spot location for the restaurant, wherein the hot spot provides for wireless communications with a wireless device for a user;

second instructions, responsive to detecting the wireless device within the hot spot location, for determining whether user preferences are stored within the device;

third instructions, responsive to user preferences being present, for generating a menu based on the user preferences; and

fourth instructions for sending the menu to the wireless device, wherein an order is placed through the wireless device using the menu.

22. The computer program product of claim 21 further comprising:

fifth instructions, responsive to placement of the order, for sending an order identification to the wireless device.

23. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the hot spot location is located within the restaurant.

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24. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the hot spot location is located outside of the restaurant in a drive-through area of the restaurant or away from a premises of the restaurant.

25. The computer program product of claim 21 further comprising:

fifth instructions, responsive to an absence of user preferences, for entering into a dialog with the user to place the order.